

01491

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Question

What is the status of Chinese missile and nuclear sales to Syria, Pakistan, Algeria, etc.? How confident are you that China will honor its commitment to adhere to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)?

Answer

Chinese missile sales and the MTCR

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- o To the best of our knowledge, apart from the 1988 sale of CSS-2 missiles to Saudi Arabia, China has not delivered missiles covered by the MTCR to the Middle East.
- o During my visit to China last November, we reached an understanding with Foreign Minister Qian whereby China would abide by the Guidelines and parameters of the Missile Technology Control Regime.
- o There is no disagreement on the substance of the understanding between our two countries, and we have had further contact with the PRC government to work out the modalities for formalizing the agreement.

Chinese nuclear sales

- o China has agreed to provide Syria with a small research reactor under an IAEA technical assistance agreement.
 - We do not support IAEA approval of this project until Syria concludes, as required by its NPT obligations, a full-scope safeguards agreement with the IAEA.
- o China recently signed an agreement to provide a 300-megawatt nuclear reactor to Pakistan.
 - Even though the reactor will apparently be subject to IAEA safeguards, we were disappointed that the PRC apparently did not require full-scope safeguards as a condition of the sale.
- o China is providing Algeria with a substantial research reactor which is in the advanced stages of construction.
 - Algeria and the IAEA have concluded a draft safeguards agreement for the facility that will be considered by the IAEA Board of Governors in February.

Drafted: PM/PRO:MPekala 1/23/92 7-4930

OES/NEP:JEbetino

Cleared: PM/PRO:STomchik

PM:EVerville

EAP/CM:CHart

P:CKelly

OES/NEP:FMcGoldrick

OES/NTS:CKessler

S/WP:GSamore

NEA/RA:Eward

H:BGray

S/P:JHughes

PM:RMantel

T:CEnglish